

Abstract

Methods and apparatus for direct coronary  
revascularization wherein a transmyocardial passageway is  
formed between a chamber of the heart and a coronary blood  
vessel to permit blood to flow therebetween. In some  
embodiments, the transmyocardial passageway is formed between  
a chamber of the heart and a coronary vein. The invention  
includes unstented transmyocardial passageways, as well as  
transmyocardial passageways wherein protrusive stent devices  
extend from the transmyocardial passageway into an adjacent  
coronary vessel or chamber of the heart. The apparatus of the  
present invention include protrusive stent devices for  
stenting of transmyocardial passageways, intraluminal valving  
devices for valving of transmyocardial passageways,  
intracardiac valving devices for valving of transmyocardial  
passageways, endogenous tissue valves for valving of  
transmyocardial passageways, and ancillary apparatus for use  
in conjunction therewith.

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